

Session 13-25 a Regular Meeting of the Homer City Council was called to order on December 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Mary E. Wythe at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	HOWARD, LEWIS, ROBERTS, VAN DYKE, ZAK
	ABSENT:	BURGESS (excused)
	STAFF:	CITY MANAGER WREDE CITY CLERK JOHNSON CITY ATTORNEY KLINKNER CITY PLANNER ABOUD COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR KOESTER FIRE CHIEF PAINTER IT DIRECTOR POOLOS LIBRARY DIRECTOR DIXON POLICE CHIEF ROBL PORT AND HARBOR DIRECTOR HAWKINS PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MEYER

Councilmember Burgess has requested excusal or telephonic participation if possible.

Mayor Wythe declared Councilmember Burgess' absence as excused. There was no objection from the Council.

Council conducted a Special Meeting in Executive Session from 4:00 p.m. until 4:55 p.m. to discuss City Manager Wrede's Annual Performance Evaluation/Employment Contract. Council met as a Committee of the Whole from 5:00 p.m. until 5:33 p.m. to discuss 2014 Budget and Consent Agenda and Regular Meeting Agenda items.

Department Heads may be called upon from time to time to participate via teleconference.

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

(Addition of items to or removing items from the agenda will be by unanimous consent of the Council. HCC 1.24.040.)

The following changes were made: **CONSENT AGENDA - Resolution 13-114**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Establishing the 2014 Regular Meeting Schedule for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks

and Recreation Advisory Commission, Advisory Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, Lease Committee, Permanent Fund Committee, Public Arts Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee. City Clerk. Memorandum 13-167 from Port and Harbor Advisory Commission as backup. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - Ordinance 13-44(A)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Calendar Year 2014 for the General Fund, the Water-Sewer Fund, the Port/Harbor Fund, Debt Funds, and Capital Reserve Funds (Conditional Expenditures). City Manager. Proposed budget amendments. Written public comments. **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT** - City Attorney Report for November 2013. **PENDING BUSINESS - Ordinance 13-42(A)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Definition of “Discontinued” in Homer City Code 21.61.015, Definitions, to Extend the Time Required to Discontinue a Nonconforming Use from 12 Months to 24 Months. Zak. Staff Report 13-98 from City Planner, Re: Ordinance 13-42(A).

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the approval of the agenda as amended.

ROBERTS/LEWIS - SO MOVED.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion to amend to remove the visitor presentation and pull Resolution 13-116 from the agenda.

ZAK/ROBERTS – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE: (main motion as amended) YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA**

Christina Anderson, Buccaneer Energy, asked Council to support Resolution 13-118. Buccaneer mobilized the glacier onshore rig from Kenai to the Eagle Site at East End Road. Camp buildings and water have been hauled to the site. Progress can be followed on Twitter and Facebook or [www.buccaneerenergy.com](http://www.buccaneerenergy.com)

Larry Slone, city resident, expressed support for Memorandum 13-161 to appoint Jack Polster to the Library Advisory Board. He will bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm and rational thought to the LAB.

Charles Davis, city resident, commented on Ordinance 13-42(A). The redefined definition has not helped the people at Bay View Inn.

## RECONSIDERATION

## CONSENT AGENDA

(Items listed below will be enacted by one motion. If separate discussion is desired on an item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda at the request of a Councilmember.)

- A. Homer City Council unapproved Special and Regular meeting minutes of November 25, 2013. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- B. **Memorandum 13-161**, from Mayor, Re: Reappointment of Tricia Lillibridge to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Appointments of Nancy Porter and Jack Polster to the Library Advisory Board.
- C. **Resolution 13-114**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Establishing the 2014 Regular Meeting Schedule for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Advisory Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, Lease Committee, Permanent Fund Committee, Public Arts Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 13-162 from Public Arts Committee as backup.

Memorandum 13-163 from Deputy City Clerk as backup.

Memorandum 13-164 from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission as backup.

Moved to Resolutions.

- D. **Resolution 13-115**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Acknowledging the November 2013 Surplus Equipment Bid Results. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- E. **Resolution 13-116**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Economic Development Advisory Commission Bylaws to Include that the Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce May Serve as a Non-Voting, Ex-Officio Member of the Commission. City Clerk/Economic Development Advisory Commission. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 13-165 from Deputy City Clerk as backup.

Pulled.

- F. **Resolution 13-117**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Repealing the City of Homer Retention Schedule and Adopting an Updated City of Homer Records Classification and Procedures Manual and Retention Schedule. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.
- G. **Resolution 13-118**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Expressing and Formalizing its Position and Policy that Oil and Gas Drilling Rigs and Support Vessels Operated by Buccaneer Energy or Other Companies are Welcome and Encouraged to Use the City of Homer Port and Harbor Facilities. Mayor. Recommend adoption.

Report from Northern Economics, Buccaneer Economic Impact Analysis.

Item C – Resolution 13-114 was moved to Resolutions. Item E – Resolution 13-116 was pulled.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the approval of the consent agenda as amended.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **VISITORS**

- A. **Lisa Roberts**, Executive Director, United Way

Removed and rescheduled to January 27, 2014.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/BOROUGH REPORT/COMMISSION REPORTS**

- A. **Mayor's Proclamation**, January as National Mentoring Month

Mayor Wythe read and presented the proclamation to Jenny Martin, Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Jenny Martin announced Big Brother Big Sisters upcoming events including a presentation to City Council on January 13<sup>th</sup>, a fundraising event on December 18<sup>th</sup> with Council on the Arts 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the high school, and free movie night on December 30<sup>th</sup> at the Homer Theatre.

B. Borough Report

C. Commissions/Board Reports:

1. Library Advisory Board
2. Homer Advisory Planning Commission
3. Economic Development Advisory Commission

Memorandum 13-166 from Economic Development Advisory Commission, Re: Status Update on Resolution 12-041.

Lindianne Sarno, Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Commissioner, reported on recent tours of the water and sewer treatment plants. She commended Todd Cook on running a state of the art system, maintaining the vast population of microbes to eat the sewage. She cautioned the public to be careful what you put down the drains since any chemicals can affect the hardworking microbes. Homer's water system generates hundreds of thousands of gallons of excess water that could be profitably marketed. Todd Cook encourages the City to give the green light for that. There is also a light fluffy fertilizer at the waste water treatment plant that could be marketed. She thanked Katie Koester for her amazing research and tremendous help to the EDC.

4. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Matt Steffy, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioner, thanked Council for their support for the recreation needs assessment. He thanked the city staff that make their volunteer work easier. Mike Illg, Angie Otteson, Julie Engebretsen, and Renee Krause are phenomenal assets to the city.

5. Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

Cathy Ulmer, Chair of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, hopes Council will support forming a committee to do research on large vessel haul out. The commission hopes to get financial help with the parking lot on the west side of the Spit.

**PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

- A. **Ordinance 13-44(A)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Appropriating Funds for the Calendar Year 2014 for the General Fund, the Water-Sewer Fund, the Port/Harbor Fund, Debt Funds, and Capital Reserve Funds (Conditional

Expenditures). City Manager. Introduction October 28, 2013, Public Hearings November 25 and December 9, 2013, and Second Reading December 9, 2013.

Memorandum 13-137 from City Manager, Re: Amendments to Employee Health Insurance Plan.

Memorandum 13-138 from Fire Chief, Re: Fire Department Budget Requests.

Memorandum 13-157 from Personnel Director, Re: Fully-Insured Health Plan Proposals.

B. **Resolution 13-107**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Maintaining the City of Homer Fee Schedule at Current Rates. City Clerk. Recommended to follow Budget Ordinance 13-44 schedule.

C. **Resolution 13-108**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Maintaining the Port and Harbor Terminal Tariff No. 600 at the Current Rates. City Clerk. Recommended to follow Budget Ordinance 13-44 schedule.

Mayor Wythe opened the public hearing.

Tom Stroozos, Homer resident and Homer Voice for Business, commented on the 2014 budget. Although revenues have only increased by 4%, expenses are up 16%.

Jim Hornaday, city resident, advocated for the Pratt Museum and The Homer Foundation. He asked Council to seriously consider a full year sales tax, explore health care exchanges, and a borough-wide service area for recreation. He hopes we don't spend time on the home rule issue as it will result in increased taxes.

Paul Hueper, city resident and Homer Voice for Business, commented since 2011 revenues have increased 4% and expenditures are up 16%. Employees are getting 7-10 weeks paid leave and paid birthdays. It is unsustainable and increasing food taxes is not a solution. Start cutting the budget.

Joy Steward, Director of Homer Foundation, advocated for funding for the foundation. The grants program was developed to fund non profits, offering general operating support. The Foundation has provided review, oversight, and accountability for the grants with no fees or charges to the City. Windfall monies received go to the endowment fund and are not available for the current grant year.

Rika Mouw, city resident, asked for support for The Homer Foundation and Pratt Museum. It is leverage for the entities, 1% of the City's budget, and contributes to Homer's economic development. The focus should be on much larger city spending. She suggested a bed tax since visitors expect it and several Alaska communities have a bed tax.

Rylyn Todd supports the recreation needs assessment. We need a place for the old and young to recreate.

Barb Brodowski, city resident, commented on the 2014 budget, specifically wages fringe benefits, and pensions for full-time employees. Employee costs are 46% of Homer's total expenditures.

Millie Martin, Homer resident, asked for support for the Pratt Museum who has a longstanding history of support since 1955. The Pratt receives 13% of their operating budget from the City; a \$20,000 shortfall means serious decisions for the Pratt. She asked to restore funding to both the Pratt and The Homer Foundation.

Wendy Todd, Homer resident, teacher, and coach, supports the recreation needs assessment for youth and everybody to recreate. It is sad to see the Boys and Girls Club not have a place since kids really benefit from that program.

Kevin Hogan, city resident, commented on the recreation needs assessment. He doesn't want to see it used as an excuse to implement more revenue through taxes. Homer's budget is 8% larger than the City of Kenai, while Kenai has a 33% larger population. Soldotna has 66 full-time employees; Homer has 113 full-time employees. We have a management and spending problem.

Jessica Marx, city resident and Homer Softball Association, supports the recreational needs assessment. There are 150-200 folks involved in softball and they need a new field, bleachers, and drainage. Recreation is good for our health and brings people together.

Larry Slone, city resident, commented on the infinite demand on city resources, yet city residents made it evident they don't want to pay more taxes to continue to provide services. Many people don't benefit from the non-profits that the City funds; they are not for the community at large.

Ken Castner, city resident, commented to do away with funding non-profits you will have a lot of people irritated at you. Over \$25M has gone breezing by in the City's budget. The City is built around the needs of the community and has always supported non-profits. A lot can be solved by doing some better listening. He questioned why the City spends so much on litigation, design, and construction of facilities that have no value behind them and have never been approved by the citizenry. The bathrooms are symbolic; they are not wanted or needed.

Charles Davis, city resident since 1978, commented we argue over the same \$100,000 each year. Water and sewer design is not designed for infill. If all subdivisions used the services we could fund the enterprise fund. He is low income without any city services and pays the same

taxes as everyone else. Homer is not a government of the people; it is of the city employees. We need to find a way to lower expenses and get our share of natural resources from the State of Alaska.

Jim Lavrakas, Executive Director Homer Chamber of Commerce, thanked Council for the allocation to the Chamber. The funds will double marketing efforts to create a presence on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Anchorage, a webcam at the harbor, and a TV advertising plan. He is working with Katie to create a vibrant and exciting relocation program for people to move here and develop their own business. He supports the reallocation to the Pratt and to Economic Development for advertising to promote Homer marine trades.

Carol Shuler, city resident and representative of Special Olympics, supports the recreation needs assessment. It will provide support for people with intellectual difficulties who have a hard time finding venues for recreational activities.

Ina Jones, Homer resident, supports funding for the Pratt Museum. It helps safeguard the history of this area and cultures across the bay. The money that is given to the Pratt brings more back to the community.

Asia Freeman, city resident and business owner, supports the full allocation to the Pratt Museum and The Homer Foundation. She supports the recreation needs assessment for arts and culture. They are collaborative efforts to strengthen the health and well-being of the community. Students who participate in health and recreation are less likely to drink and be arrested.

Deb Lowney, Homer resident, supports the recreation needs assessment. Arts and culture have a huge direct impact on the community and attract more tourists. We must invest in parks, recreation, arts, and culture for quality of life. If we must add employees, the City must educate the public on the need to expand revenues.

Ryjil Christianson, city resident, commented the Pratt Museum is important for working professionals. She has a wonderful career here in the community in which she was raised. The Pratt boasts award winning programs and exhibits, and is a great source of career jobs that bring young families to our community.

Mike Dye, city resident, told Council they need leadership and he fears Council is losing it. He understands why the charter is coming up. He is tired of getting pitted against each other with more fees. Bed taxes will decrease revenues further. Visitors look at their total costs here compared to other communities.

Sierra Smith, city resident, supports the recreation needs assessment. It is a small part of the budget that will provide youth with opportunities through arts, education, and recreation.



Gail Edgerly, Homer resident and Homer Council on the Arts, commented that art, recreation, and culture are not non essentials anymore. They need to be included into the budget just as road and emergency services are. The City can partner with a new multi-purpose facility in downtown Homer.

Carol Swartz, Homer Arts and Cultural Alliance, is a 33-year active member of numerous non profits and volunteer work. She echoes everything she has heard. Council has a strategic plan and blueprint for guidance, the Comprehensive plan.

Diane Converse, city resident and Director of Pratt Museum, commented the funding cut seriously impacts the Pratt. They leverage grant funds from city contributions. Private foundations such as Rasmuson Foundation look at other funders and a city line item. The Pratt has amazing programs for residents and markets to visitors outside Homer.

Mike Hawfield, former director of the Pratt, is a member of boards of several organizations within the city. He agreed with Diane's comments; it is so important to receive city funding to get the grants. We need to follow the Comprehensive Plan. It is all about community wellness, the emotional, physical, and expressive health to keep the funds in the budget.

Ken Landfield, city resident and Board Member of Pier One Theatre and Homer Cultural Arts and Alliance, supports the recreation needs assessment. He asked Council to reconsider cuts to the Pratt and The Homer Foundation. While he understands the frustration and empathizes with Council, the arts and culture of Homer are not frills. It is more to Homer than the view and fish. Arts bring visitors to Homer, attract new residents, and keep young people engaged.

Deb Cox, city resident and Co-Chair of HoPP (Homer Playground Project), commented they came to the City and asked for 5,000 at first and then asked for \$50,000. That amount given to the project went so much further. The playground turned out really well and there are lots of kids there all the time. Without The Homer Foundation they could not have done it. She asked Council to support the recreation needs assessment that will tie it all together.

Robert Archibald, city resident, has seen a lot of non-profits grow. Members have heart in each organization. There have been several occasions where the hotels were full, due to non-profits putting on competitions. He supports the recreation needs assessment as it will provide statistics to understand what the community needs.

Dave Brann, city resident, is involved in a variety of organizations that have benefited from The Homer Foundation and the Pratt Museum. The recreation needs assessment is beneficial. He is willing to pay increased sales tax and a bed tax.

Dan Miotke, city resident and city employee, commented we have to support buildings and departments that are community buildings. The recreation department and library are community buildings that serve all. If Council could look at making the community entities supported by the community there may be more money left over to support the vital parts of the city like fire. Soldotna does not have a fire department; they contract with the troopers. Community recreation needs to be embraced by the community at the borough level.

Keri Syth, P.E. teacher at West Homer Elementary, supports a recreational facility. It is a good place to start with massive city support like HoPP did.

Karin Marks, city resident, commented people are very interested in education, public safety, arts, culture, and kids. It is not about caring, but rather a lack of money. We need a larger tax base. People want to move to places that have quality of life, but they need jobs and need incentives. If we don't grow we can't support much of this even if it is well planned and needed. An outside facilitator may do a better job. She is concerned that we do new things and don't have the money to take care of the stuff we have. We are a small town with a small tax base and have to recognize that until we can grow the tax base.

Kate Crowley, city resident and Recreate Rec, commented is a money argument; every household has this problem. Recreate Rec raised \$5,975 in pledges to go along with the \$35,000 Council allotted. She supports the Pratt Museum and The Homer Foundation. They are cornerstone organizations that spread funds to the community.

Mayor Wythe closed the public hearing.

Mayor Wythe called for a recess at 7:48 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Ordinance 13-44(A) by reading of title only for second and final reading.

LEWIS/ROBERTS – SO MOVED.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - MOVED TO AMEND BY ADDING \$19,000 TO REFUND THE HOMER FOUNDATION.

Councilmembers Lewis and Roberts expressed support to provide The Homer Foundation funds that could be granted. The other allotments made this year went to The Foundation's endowment fund .

VOTE: (amendment) YES. LEWIS, ROBERTS, HOWARD, ZAK, VAN DYKE

Motion carried.

Mayor Wythe noted at the Committee of the Whole Council reviewed the 2014 budget. We started the budget process with a projected \$112,000 of additional funding. Of those funds, \$70,000 was allotted to police dispatch with a decrease of \$20,000 in police patrol overtime. Two part-time EMT positions were funded at \$54,000; those funds were derived from the Pratt Museum and The Homer Foundation reduction. An additional \$10,000 was funded to the Chamber of Commerce. Those amendments left \$37,000 unallocated, minus this \$19,000 for The Home Foundation just approved.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - MOVED TO AMEND TO RESTORE THE PRATT'S \$20,000 WITH \$18,000 FROM THE FINAL SURPLUS FUNDS AND \$2,000 FROM GENERAL FUND RESERVES.

There was brief discussion on the accounts and amounts.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. ROBERTS, HOWARD, LEWIS, ZAK, VAN DYKE

Motion carried.

ZAK/ROBERTS – MOVED TO AMEND TO ADD \$10,000 FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVERTISING FROM PAGE 47, LINE 5210, THE LEGAL BUDGET.

The funds will go to Economic Development for advertising and they can address how to best spend it in the community. The primary intent is the marine trade, but it is open for other types of support as needed.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. HOWARD, LEWIS, VAN DYKE, ZAK, ROBERTS

Motion carried.

ZAK/VAN DYKE - MOVED TO AMEND TO FUND THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN, TO MAKE IT FULL TIME; \$18,453 FROM PAGE 47, LINE 5210, THE LEGAL FUND.

Councilmember Zak noted this year there were more attorney fees. We are not anticipating as many legal fees next year. The funds are better placed in the community.

City Manager Wrede reported the legal fund contains funding for the city attorney contract and to pay for lawsuits. It is always a risk to remove funds; predicting the legal budget is always risky. Last year was abnormally high and we hope it won't be that high again.

City Attorney Klinkner commented one can never predict what litigation may come along. He is aware of only one significant litigation item pending. That one is drawing to a close, but there may be appeals. We are expecting a decision at the next stage before the end of the year which may conclude the case.

The \$18,453 amount will cover the full time librarian's salary and benefits.

Asked about the regulation of adding a position and not deleting it, City Manager referenced the termination studies which refer to a class of employees. This position could be created and if the need arises eliminated five years later without paying a penalty.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. VAN DYKE, LEWIS, HOWARD, ZAK, ROBERTS

Motion carried.

Mayor Wythe called for a recess at 8:16 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

HOWARD/LEWIS - MOVED TO AMEND TO TAKE \$4,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL CITIZEN'S ACADEMY.

Councilmember Howard explained a citizen's academy is a six-week program once or twice a year where we would invite 20 citizens to come and learn about their government, how their town works. The goal would be that they would be well informed about how their government works, where funding comes from, how taxation rules work, and how police and fire works. It is similar to what the Alaska troopers run as well as many cities in the Lower 48.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. ZAK, VAN DYKE, HOWARD, LEWIS, ROBERTS

Motion carried.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - MOVED TO AMEND TO ALLOCATE \$15,000 FROM THE HART (HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAILS) FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGINEERING, DESIGN, AND PERMITTING FOR A PARKING LOT AT THE SEAFARER'S MEMORIAL.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. HOWARD, LEWIS, ZAK, ROBERTS, VAN DYKE

Motion carried.

VOTE: (main motion as amended) YES. LEWIS, ROBERTS, HOWARD, ZAK, VAN DYKE

Motion carried.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 13-107 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 13-108 by reading of title only.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **ORDINANCE(S)**

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **A. City Manager's Report**

1. Deep Water Dock and Pioneer Dock Tidelands: The Department of Natural Resources has completed the public comment period and issued a Final Finding and Decision on the conveyance to the City of tide and submerged lands adjacent to the Deep Water Dock and the Pioneer Dock. A copy of the decisional document is attached for your information. The maps attached to the decisional document clearly illustrate why our next conversation should be expanding the municipal boundaries in the port area.
2. Economic Impacts Analysis / Drill Rig Endeavor. The economic impacts study the Council commissioned regarding the Drill Rig has arrived. At the time this report was written, we were reviewing the draft document to see if we had any comments or concerns that needed to be addressed with the draft before it goes to the Council. (We saw the impacts of releasing the rate study report too soon). If it needs revisions, we may not have it to you by packet time or even by meeting time. But we can certainly summarize it for you at the meeting. This report is timely because there is a resolution on the agenda which references the study and states the City's position going forward regarding drill rigs at the dock.
3. Pedestrian Cross-Walk Signs. We have been engaged in a discussion with Representative Seaton about adding cross walk signs on the backside of already

existing cross walk sign posts. The effect of this would be that approaching drivers would see two crosswalk signs on either side of the roadway. Rep. Seaton would like the City to conduct a pilot project on Pioneer Ave. and the Sterling Highway, both state roads, and on some of the City's own roads, including those in Old Town. The City would assume the cost of purchase and maintenance. Rep. Seaton believes this would improve pedestrian safety. The State traffic engineer counters that there is no evidence that doing this would improve safety and that the state cannot afford the extra labor and expense or to set a precedent that would apply statewide. The City administration has taken the same position so far, however, this issue would likely benefit from a public discussion. We can provide you with more details at the meeting if you like or the issue could be referred to the Planning Commission and/or the Transportation Committee who are both already working on traffic calming issues.

4. Request for Support from Soldotna: At the AML meeting in Anchorage, I spent some time with Soldotna City Manager Mark Dixon. One of the things we talked about was Soldotna's efforts to expand its Sports Center and specifically, to include indoor soccer fields. This is a priority CIP project for Soldotna and they are attempting to obtain funding from the governor and the legislature. Mark reminded me that there are many Homer families that drive all the way to Anchorage several times a year to get time on a soccer field. This situation is apparently much like the situation we once had with hockey. He said if Soldotna was able to build these fields, Homer residents could just drive to Soldotna rather than all the way to Anchorage. He asked if I would consider writing a letter of support. I told him that I would want to discuss this with the Council first, since actively supporting a CIP project in another City is really a policy/political matter. Please let me know what you think. We could follow with a resolution later if Council is interested.
5. A New Budget Amendment: The packet contains a new budget amendment proposal from the administration. We bring this forward at the request of the Port and Harbor Commission. The project is basically to use \$15,000 of HART Funds for survey, engineering, design, and permitting on expanding the parking lot between the Seafarers memorial and the Boardwalk to the North. A memorandum on the project was included in your last packet and is attached to the budget amendment for reference. This project has been talked about for many years and the Commission believes it would relieve parking congestion and improve pedestrian safety. It would be a big part of our MOU with the State to create a pedestrian zone in that area. I considered waiting until January to bring this up (and not hit you with it at the last minute) but Council has next year's Budget before it right now. It seemed silly to adopt a new budget for next year and then immediately bring you a budget amendment ordinance in January. However, we can definitely postpone this if Council thinks it needs more discussion. Using HART funds for this purpose is one thing that Council should weigh in on. We can discuss this in detail at the meeting, or simply postpone and we'll come back with an ordinance early next year.

6. Proposed New Legislation: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has permitting authority in the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Critical Habitat Area. You will recall that there is a conflict between this plan and relevant state statutes regarding whether a drill rig can moor at the Deep Water Dock and put its legs down. ADF&G has strongly recommended that legislation is needed to address this problem. We are taking this issue on and Katie will be working with ADF&G and our legislators to craft legislation for introduction this session. Linda Anderson is already working on this and contacting legislators.
7. Scheduling Issues: It might be a good idea to have a short discussion about scheduling for the upcoming year in order to get everyone on the same page and start planning. First, at the last meeting, Council members seemed to agree that a workshop in January to discuss expanding the municipal boundaries in the port area was a good idea. The Mayor also discussed her desire to reserve all of the 4 PM timeslots as needed for workshops on employee health insurance. We have already changed a possible meeting with legislators from the 4 PM timeslot for that reason. So, just be advised that unless something changes, other arrangements would have to be made for the boundary issue. Also, last fall, during the CIP discussions, the Council talked about conducting some strategic planning this winter. The budget also includes, at Councilmember Howard's, request, funding for the Citizen's Academy. Council would certainly want to discuss the program goals, objectives, process and hoped for outcomes before we launch into it. Maybe we need a workshop to discuss workshops!!
8. Kachemak City Agreements. I am working with Kachemak City Mayor Phil Morris on a number of new and/or updated agreements between the two Cities. These agreements include a cost sharing agreement for installation of the natural gas line on Spencer Drive, a fire and emergency services agreement and associated tanker truck lease agreement, Steller's Jay and Golden Plover road maintenance agreement, and a sewer operations agreement. Expect to see at least some of these agreements for review and approval at the first meeting in January.
9. New Port and Harbor Building: The most recent committee meeting was very productive. Based upon the meeting, the staff has given new direction to the architects. Cost savings and budget cuts were requested in some key areas and other possible sources of money were identified to fund some features of the proposed design. The consultants were asked to prepare new costs estimates for the Committee meeting on December 20.
10. Police Department Statistics: The Police Department has been extremely busy this year. The departmental statistical reports through October will be placed in your mailboxes in about a week. When you get a chance, please take a minute to review the Police Report because it is very informative about the types of incidents and arrests the Police have been involved in. There has been a large spike in drug arrests and drug investigations. At the end of October, the Police had already broken the all- time yearly record for arrests and prisoner days at the jail. This is a story that the community needs to be aware of and try to address. We are fortunate that we already

have the MAPP group and other non-profits working on the causes of these problems and proposing solutions. But this is something we should all be concerned about as a community.

City Manager Wrede reported on an exciting project of a donation of a bronze statue of Brother Asaiah to be placed at WKFL Park. The donor is working through the application process.

The public comment period is open for the proposed road in the airport master plan. It aims to get airplanes from the base without having to haul them across the causeway. It is in the scoping process with several routes in the general area. Rick Abboud is formulating comments for the city. There are some wetlands involved and a permit is needed for fill. The new road will improve public safety.

Council discussed supporting the City of Soldotna's request to expand their Sports Center. Soldotna wants to update the center to a regional sports center with indoor soccer fields and other activities. People in Homer would benefit. The City of Soldotna would like a letter or resolution of support from Council. City Manager Wrede has received a little pushback since we can't fund our own parks and recreation and get our own community center together. Councilmember Lewis requested a resolution of support at the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mayor Wythe agreed to co-sponsor the resolution.

Mayor Wythe recognized seven city employees celebrating 76 years of combined service to the community.

B. Bid Report

C. Games Report

1. Alaska State Elks Association for Homer Elks Lodge #2127

## **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

There were no questions for City Attorney Tom Klinkner.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

A. Public Arts Committee



- B. Transportation Advisory Committee
- C. Permanent Fund Committee
- D. Lease Committee
- E. Port and Harbor Improvement Committee
- F. Employee Committee Report
- G. Port and Harbor Building Task Force

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

- A. **Ordinance 13-42(A)**, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the Definition of “Discontinued” in Homer City Code 21.61.015, Definitions, to Extend the Time Required to Discontinue a Nonconforming Use from 12 Months to 24 Months. Zak. Introduction October 28, 2013, Refer to Planning Commission, Public Hearing and Second Reading November 25.

Memorandum 13-168 from City Planner as backup.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for second and final reading of Ordinance 13-42(A).

ZAK/ROBERTS – SO MOVED.

Councilmember Lewis commented the Planning Commission recommended passing the ordinance. Other amendments to discontinued nonconforming use can be brought forward separately.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

- C. **Resolution 13-114**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Establishing the 2014 Regular Meeting Schedule for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Advisory Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, Lease

Committee, Permanent Fund Committee, Public Arts Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee. City Clerk. Recommend adoption.

Memorandum 13-162 from Public Arts Committee as backup.

Memorandum 13-163 from Deputy City Clerk as backup.

Memorandum 13-164 from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission as backup.

Memorandum 13-167 from Port and Harbor Advisory Commission as backup.

ROBERTS/LEWIS - MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 13-114.

For the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting Mayor Wythe asked staff to conduct a thorough review of commissions and committees. Are there committees with an established purpose that have exhausted their work and not closed the committee? Can we look at staff time and budget reductions? Can we try to structure their meeting times, or eliminate meetings during prime staff work time? Staff will review commissions and committees to see if there is an alternative schedule plan to reduce staff time spent on them. Staff will recommend any reduction of committees that are no longer functional.

VOTE: YES. NON OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Jenny Miller, Homer resident, spoke on the events for the Winter Carnival in February. Events from past years will be brought back to mark the city's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The theme will be "Dancing in the Streets." She encouraged everyone to participate and have a good time.

Ken Castner, city resident, is not trying to tear down the city; he just wants it to be a little bit better and more responsive. His petition for a charter commission is now collecting signatures; the next phase is for people to become commissioners. He would like a peaceful democratic ballot box process.

Millie Martin, Homer resident, commented the City Council did respond tonight to the Pratt Museum and The Homer Foundation. She thanked them for listening to the people.

Charles Davis, city resident, commented it is ironic we are the richest state in the union yet we are giving all the money to the oil companies. We should be going after the money the State has. We better get money back from the oil companies so we have money to support the things we have.

Robert Archibald, city resident, commented on Resolution 13-118. Welcoming jackup rigs is going to put a new burden upon the Harbormaster. Kachemak Bay deserves a little protection as a critical habitat. The collection of oil boats and jackup rigs presents a problem. Although there are a lot of entities that make regulations, the failure of human beings is still out there. There is a discussion about critical habitats tomorrow at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney Klinkner wished Barbara and Beau a speedy recovery and happy holidays to all.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Johnson wished everyone happy holidays.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Wrede wish everyone peace and goodwill.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Wythe thanked Council for their work on the budget. Mr. Slone and Mr. Castner back to back was as good as it can get to address two different sides. Although we would like to have everything, we have to pay taxes to support it. When the needs are not met Council has to allocate funds. It is easy to look at the funds and be critical of management, and say get rid of employees and services, but see what happened today with non profit funding. She apologized to the non profits if she made them feel unappreciated. There is not a person at the table that does not realize the benefits of non profits. As to jackup rigs at the dock, people say the city needs to be open for business, provide sustainable jobs, and provide arts and recreation. It is not the end of the world to have the jackup rig here. The Homer Foundation derived substantial benefit. We have the port and harbor to make money to support and sustain itself; we can't shirk every opportunity that promotes commerce. We need to be open for business to generate and support funds to grow the community. Port and harbor spends a ton of time with regulations and they are doing a great job. She thanked all people that stuck it out to the end of the meeting. The Council is here to support you, their job being to represent the community as best they can. She wished everyone the best Christmas and Happy New Year.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Councilmember Howard wished everyone happy holidays.

Councilmember Lewis reflected on spending many a day hot mopping the ice rink with Kevin Bell. People keep bringing up the bathrooms and it is not a big deal to those who drive. If you spend a lot of time walking they come in handy since trees to hide behind are harder to find. In hearing about Soldotna's budget, we have a port and harbor, a more sophisticated water and sewer system, and more parks than Soldotna has. Soldotna has the non prepared food sales tax. Homer is the only city on the peninsula that took that away. He wished all a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Van Dyke wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He is glad everyone showed up. Homer is open for business.

Councilmember Zak thanked the citizens for coming out tonight. Council worked on a tough budget. We have not forgotten about healthcare and will continue to address it. He urged folks to participate in the spaghetti feed at the Elks Lodge tomorrow and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Roberts commented on the testimony earlier about the city being poorly managed with a budget higher than Kenai and Soldotna. It is not fair to compare Homer to the other communities. Our port and harbor is 20% to 25% of the budget. People need to be careful when they say something that is not true. She thanked everyone that came out tonight and is glad to listen to people's opinions. She reminded the community about the spaghetti feed tomorrow and House Bill 77 at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She wished all a Merry Christmas.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wythe adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is Monday, January 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., Committee of the Whole 5:00 p.m., and Worksession 4:00 p.m. All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_